



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,493	02/28/2002	Frederic Hoffmann	PET-1994	7475
23599	7590	12/02/2004	EXAMINER	
MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C. 2200 CLARENDON BLVD. SUITE 1400 ARLINGTON, VA 22201			DOROSHENK, ALEXA A	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			1764	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/084,493	HOFFMANN ET AL.
	Examiner Alexa A. Doroshenk	Art Unit 1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1,4-14 and 26-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1,4-14,27,28 and 30-49 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 26 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***DETAILED ACTION***

***Drawings***

1. The correct drawings for Figure 2 were received on July 15, 2004. These drawings are accepted.

***Specification***

2. The examiner has made the following corrections to applicant's amendments to the specification filed July 15, 2004:

The deletion of the paragraph at page 12, line 9 has been corrected to page 13.

The insertion at page 14, between lines 9 and 10 has been corrected to lines 10 and 11.

***Claim Suggestions***

3. For clarification of claim language, the examiner suggests the following changes to the claims:

In claim 1, line 8, delete the first instance of "the" and insert --- a ---.

In claim 1, line 11, delete "another" and insert --- a subsequent stage ---.

In claim 1, line 12, after "means" insert --- in the one stage --- and after "zone" insert --- of the subsequent stage ---.

In claim 1, line 20, prior to "reaction zone" insert --- at least one --- and delete "or zones".

In claim 1, line 22, delete "the reaction zone or zones" and insert --- the at least one reaction zone ---.

Art Unit: 1764

In claim 1, line 23, prior to "reaction zone" insert --- at least one --- and delete "or zones of the" and insert --- of a ----.

In claim 48, line 8, delete the first instance of "the" and insert --- a ---.

In claim 48, line 12, delete "another" and insert --- a subsequent stage ---.

In claim 48, line 13, after "means" insert --- in the one stage --- and after "zone" insert --- of the subsequent stage ---.

In claim 48, line 20, prior to "reaction zone" insert --- at least one --- and delete "or zones".

In claim 49, line 8, delete the first instance of "the" and insert --- a ---.

In claim 49, line 12, delete "another" and insert --- a subsequent stage ---.

In claim 49, line 13, after "means" insert --- in the one stage --- and after "zone" insert --- of the subsequent stage ---.

In claim 49, line 16, prior to "reaction zone" insert --- at least one --- and delete "or zones".

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Claims 26 and 29 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claims are dependent upon a cancelled claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

5. Claims 1, 4-14, 27, 28 and 30-49 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's arguments (page 12 and 15) in view of the amendments to the claims have been persuasive. Additionally, the examiner finds that Stone explicitly states that an "hour glass' passage of catalyst between beds is eliminated" (col. 13, lines 12-26) further discouraging the combination of references of Stone and Lengemann.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexa A. Doroshenk whose telephone number is 571-272-1446. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Calderola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alexa A. Doroshenk  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1764